

Mark 13.1-8

St Peter de Beauvoir
14.Nov.2021**Kingdom against kingdom – the King has come**

'Sir we want to see Jesus' Jn 12.21

*May the words of my mouth & the meditation of all our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my rock and my redeemer.*Ps19.14

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

Our very first corporate words today... *O worship the King*
And I am pretty sure most of us here know who the King is!

In our passage today the disciples call Jesus; teacher...
and in his response to their question he says,
'nation will rise against nation & kingdom against kingdom'
If we had read on to verse 9 Jesus says to his disciples and
the followers there:

*'you will stand before Governors and kings to witness to
me, and you will be flogged for doing so'*

Jesus knew that what he proclaimed and what his followers
were buying into, was political dynamite
Remember how his birth family became refugees in Egypt
because Herod was fearful that a new king had been born

who would threaten his position and authority...

But Jesus was not interested in earthly positional power or
democratic, (or despotic) authority...

His opening words at the beginning of his ministry were

The kingdom of heaven is near! It is among you!

Jesus was fully aware that he was a King, and that he was
ushering in the kingdom of heaven on earth... he needed
no earthly acclaim or domain – he was, is and always will
be the King of heaven and earth... his kingdom will have no
end, whilst other kingdom rise up against each other his
kingdom knows no disunity and no end...

Just as the Roman empire would one day make way
for the Seleucid empire, the Mongol, Russian, Germanic,
Spanish and British empires would all follow...

and all would fade

Only the Kingdom of heaven knows no aging process, it is
beyond time and yet it is also within time... when Jesus the
messiah stands at the start of his ministry and declares that
the **Kingdom of God has arrived**... he declares before the
whole universe that creation is being restored... and would
be; by his own life laid down... redeemed

The fall of humanity and the fracturing of creation was no longer in endless turmoil, hope was being restored and one day all God's promises would be fulfilled.

We live in the 'in between times' the kingdom is here now but not yet fully arrived' – remember; when Jesus rose from the dead, the earthquakes, the dead rising, the sun going dark for 3 hours, all this was later described by Paul as 'creation groaning with the pangs of new birth'

Jesus is no ordinary king!

& it doesn't stop with his res; just 40 days later JC would ascend into heavenly realms to sit at God's right hand ^{evermore}

Did the incarnate Jesus know he was a King?

Well, he knew he had a kingdom

John 18.36 – Jesus: "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

Did the Jewish people believe him to be a king?

Well... if they knew their scriptures, they would know what the prophet Daniel had said:

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. Daniel 7

And whilst we are at it! Book of Revelation recognizes that JC will be king till the end of time & beyond... Chapter 19

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. . . . On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus is an extraordinary king!

But what does this all mean for us today...

Well for a start the Church of England will next week celebrate the feast of Christ the King...

So, Jesus is the king as far as the church is concerned.

Is he king as far as you are concerned?

Let me take you back a moment to the start of Jesus ministry, when he is on the shore of the sea of galilee calling Peter and Andrew to leave their fishing nets and follow him...

They knew the score, unless a Rabbi collected ten followers no-one took them seriously, they couldn't speak in the synagogue...

They chose to follow Jesus... they gave up their lives to follow him and within days... 100's more were being mesmerized by his teaching... ever wonder why?

Because he taught like no other

He was unlike all the rest -for he was from elsewhere

He was from the heavenly realms

It was not long before those disciples were rewarded for their decision to follow JC >> they saw first-hand his power & authority over the things of this world, magnifying food to feed thousands, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind

This Jesus needed no earthly positional power, he needed no democratic or despotic authority... He could still the storm, he could walk on water, he could curse a tree and watch it die, and just as easily create a tree that stands on both sides of the river its leaves for the healing of the nations!

Jesus is king of heaven and earth

He is Lord over heaven and earth, we will sing of that in our last hymn this morning, for only King Jesus can point us through the shadows of death to eternal life, it is as he holds his cross before our fading eyes that the brightness of heaven eclipses the vain shadows of earth –

Abide with me is a victory song

Because king Jesus has vanquished death itself...

He has beaten down every last barrier, he has refuted the evil one who no longer holds any authority...

Not only have kingdoms come and gone, but death, sin, failure, the works of the evil one were beaten down that day on calvary as Jesus breathed his last...

Jesus the ultimate servant king

'Today' he said to the thief 'this day you will be with me in paradise' death is defeated Heavens morning breaks as earths vain shadows flee...

What does this all mean for us today?

It means everything... *everything depends on whether you have accepted Jesus as King of your life,*

The disciples began by following a rabbi on the beach, they would later see this heavenly king raised from the dead... And ascending into heaven from whence he came.

What does it mean for us today that Jesus is king?

We heard a story at our staff meeting this last Tuesday of a man in the states who had come to faith the same day as 14 other members of his family, all because his brother had a dream where he heard a voice saying follow your brother this morning, thinking he may be suicidal... he followed him all the way to church where he had been sneaking for a couple of weeks – both became Xns that morning as they listened to a sermon on Ezekiel 37

That night 13 of their family amazed at the transformation went + heard the same sermon repeated & became Xns

The original man a week later was visiting his sick grandpa who on hearing of his conversion invited him to study the bible with him, which they did regularly for the next 8 months before the old man died...

At his funeral they learnt that 20 years earlier he had led a drunk violent man to meet Jesus and to come to faith...

That drunk man turned out to be the Pastor preaching almost 20 years later on Ezekiel 37...

Nobody seeks to bring someone to faith in the vain hope that decades later they may bring their children to faith but hey...

In the kingdom of God where the King loves his creation so much he would die for it – anything is possible.

What does it mean for us today that Jesus is King?

Well let me ask you the same question

What does it mean for you today that Jesus is king?

Of your heart

Of your daily decisions

Of your wallet

Of your time

Of your family and friends

Of all creation

Of heaven and earth

Of all time...

What does it mean for you?

